GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1746
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2015
Young Scientists
Jena Shri Rabindra Kumar

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking adequate measures to promote young scientists to pursue research programmes and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the main objectives of the Young Scientists Research Programmes and the funds allocated therefor by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the required age group to avail this programme and the achievement made thereunder so far;

(d) whether the Government is providing any special schemes or scholarships under this programme; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI.Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes, Madam. Government has taken several measures to promote young scientists to pursue research programmes in the country. These include offering attractive research fellowships, instituting targeted schemes for young researchers, strengthening infrastructure for Research and Development (R&D) to attract and retain young scientists to remain with research careers. Some of the targeted Programmes are Young Scientist Project Award Schemes, Early Career Research Award (ECRA), National Postdoctoral Fellowship (N-PDF), Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme and CSIR-Nehru Postdoctoral Fellowships.

(b) The main objectives of the Young Scientists Research Schemes are to provide quick research support to researchers who are in their early career for pursuing exciting and innovative research in frontier areas of science and engineering; identify motivated young researchers with a focus to develop a platform for early research independence; attract brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research positions in India and for developing independent scientific profiles and intends helping them emerge as S&T leaders in the long term. The funds allocated for Young Scientists Research Programmes during each of the last three financial years and in the current financial year by the Department of Science and Technology are given below:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Funds Allocated (Amount in crores)
1	2012-13	132.24
2	2013-14	178.84
3	2014-15	181.69
4	2015-16 (Till November 2015)	174.46

(c) The required age group to avail the Programmes are: i) INSPIRE Faculty Scheme: 27-32 age, ii) ECRA: Within 2 years of regular appointment; iii) N-PDF: Upper age limit of 35 years with age relaxation of 5 years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged and Women and iv) Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award: Upper age limit of 35 years and age relaxation of 5 years to special categories and women. The support has catalyzed in emanating research publications of high impact and national and international patents. Many of the young Indian researchers received globally recognized awards, fellowships of national and international science academies. Through these targeted schemes, the country could create the required critical mass in many areas of national interest.

(d) & (e): The recipients of these awards / fellowships receive attractive research grant for carrying out internationally competent research. In addition, those who are not employed are provided personal money during the tenure of the programme. The research grant includes money for consumables/ minor equipment, contingencies and a travel grant. Awards like Innovative Biotechnologist Award, National Bioscience Awards for Career Development are given to Young scientists to recognize innovative thinkers in sectoral areas.

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